

NEWS NOTES

OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

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Philadelphia, Pa.

Four C. O.'s Denied Paroles

Dotys Remain in Solitary

The four Doty brothers, non-registrants from Minnesota, remain in solitary confinement at Springfield for refusal to work. Orin, Paul and Sid started their non-cooperation June 5, and they were later joined by Joel. The boys refuse to work because they do not wish to participate in the maintenance of their own imprisonment.

The Dotys report that they were at first confined in "drain" cells—barren cells without furnishings or toilet facilities other than a hole in the center of the floor. After about a week of this, they were transferred to the regular segregation unit of the prison where they had a mattress and bedding, but not a bed.

Not until July 10 were they given beds and any exercise privilege outside of their individual cells. They now get half an hour daily in a room described as a "sunless sun porch about 30 by 30 furnished with a table and a rubber ball." Their exercise must be taken individually. The men are allowed no contact with one another or any of the rest of the rest of the inmate population. Frequent requests for yard exercise have been denied. The men are allowed to smoke, have library books, receive the regular prison diet, and maintain the usual prison visiting, commissary and correspondence privileges. They had an unsupervised visit with Albert Moorman, prison visitor from the Des Moines office of the American Friends Service Committee.

Men May Be Transferred

The Bureau of Prisons is considering transfer of the Dotys to a Correctional Institution and placing them in administrative segregation. During World War II, C.O.'s in administrative segregation had most prison privileges, including some yard exercise, but were kept out of the inmate population. At Sandstone and Danbury they had a separate section of a cellhouse with a day room and were allowed free access within this section. They were also allowed typewriters and the use of craft supplies. Bureau of Prisons decision on the handling of the Dotys has been delayed pending the return to Washington of the Director, James V. Bennett.

Orin Doty writes that he is getting along as well as could be expected under the circumstances. He also writes, "This is quite a modern prison . . . It is a very neat appearing establishment. (Read St. Matthew 23:27-29)."

Matthew 23:27-29 reads "Woe unto you, scribes and
(Continued on page 4)

Board of Parole Action Indicates Reversal of Policy for Objectors

The last four conscientious objectors to come up for parole have had their applications denied. All of the men involved are non-registrants. Vail Palmer was eligible for parole March 20, and Robert Somers was eligible June 28. Both of these men are serving year and a day sentences.

When the Palmer and Somers paroles were denied it was thought that their relatively short sentences might have been a factor considered by the Board. Two recent denials indicate that the board may have changed their policy on C.O. paroles, perhaps as a result of the Korean casualties.

David and Paul Seaver, 18-year-old twins, will be eligible for parole August 27. They have already had their parole interviews and been notified that parole has been denied. The Seavers are serving 18-month sentences. All of the men have requested reconsideration of their parole applications.

Prison administration officials often hold denial of parole over the heads of inmates with a tendency to protest within prison. Non-cooperative C.O.'s have frequently been told how they are hurting their chances for parole. None of these men has been involved in any resistance within prison. Vail Palmer had a letter published in the July 7 issue of *The Peacemaker* on why he chose not to be a rebel within prison.

The Board of Parole denied parole to the first C.O.'s to come before them under the 1948 draft law. However, they later changed their minds, and C.O.'s have been receiving parole regularly with a few cases where second applications were necessary.

Judge B. J. Monkiewicz, board member who interviewed the Seaver boys, reported to CCCO that the board is giving individual consideration to each case and has not inaugurated a policy of no C.O. paroles. He further pointed out, however, that the board feels it is necessary for the C.O. parole policy to vary with the military need for men. Judge Monkiewicz indicated that the board followed a similar fluctuating policy on cases such as army desertion.

Hayden Covington, general counsel for the Jehovah's Witnesses, reported that Judge Rogers of the Board of Parole stated flatly that there would be no parole for J.W.'s.

Some Don't Love Us

The June NEWS NOTES reported the mailing of our special appeal to 11,000 persons not on our mailing list. The appeal was signed by Albert Einstein, Harry Emerson Fosdick, Pitirim A. Sorokin, and Clarence Pickett.

One interesting result of this appeal was the response from persons who disagree with our program and took the time to tell us about it. We divided the letters from non-believers into four categories: Irate, Light Touch, Serious Critic, and the inevitable Miscellaneous.

Some Were Irate

A few individuals endangered their blood pressure to let us know exactly how they felt. One envelope was returned to us unopened with "Not wanted—Please return or send to the F.B.I." scribbled across the front of it.

The president of a state college wrote in such heat that his letter contained a grammatical error and a misspelled word. He concluded that the courts can decide about C.O.'s "without the assistance of executive secretaries."

One man had "A Loyal American" on his return address blank and commented in strong language about where C.O.'s should go in addition to Russia or perhaps at the same time—it wasn't too clear if there was any distinction.

Another ended his comments with, "Take me off your sucker list."

Perhaps the consensus of opinion of the irate was expressed by the veteran of World War I who wrote, "To me, a 'C.O.' is a creature who enjoys all the advantages of American Liberty, but is too yellow to suffer the inconveniences of contributing toward the cost of it, in blood or otherwise. He is not too proud to receive or to beg, but too cowardly to fight or to contribute. NOT ONE PENNY WILL BE GIVEN BY ME FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANY C.O."

Some Were Cheerful

We would have enjoyed an opportunity of getting acquainted with some of the critics who softened their replies with a light touch.

For instance, the man who returned his pledge card with the single sentence, "You really are joking aren't you?" is probably a good guy.

Then there was the man who wrote us a note (key words underlined with red pencil) saying, in part, "I am an educator and veteran, not a wailing wall," and concluded, "Fie on you!"

One correspondent cheerfully informed us that, "If we were all C.O.'s Joe would be over on the next ship."

Some Were Serious

Limited space prevents quoting from all of the dozen or so letters received from persons who sent us seriously considered replies on why they could not agree with our position. One was from a father whose son had been killed in action, others from veterans and relatives of veterans.

Here are a few selected comments from different letters: "I am disturbed to find men like you soliciting funds to help those who evade their responsibility to

Netherlands C.O.'s Reported

CCCO has received an interesting report from J. H. van Wijk, an attorney in Netherlands, about the court martial of C.O.'s in that country. The sentences vary from two months to three years with an average of 22 months for the 29 sentences reported. Maximum court martial sentence in time of peace is four years and in time of war eight years.

The report includes three acquittals in cases where the men got recognized as C.O.'s. Men recognized and registered as C.O.'s in the Netherlands do civilian service for one year longer than the service required of army inductees. Men facing court martial as C.O.'s are also discharged if they are declared medically unfit.

Mr. van Wijk reports that the court martials are "incomparably" better than the civil courts for the acceptance and understanding of C.O. defenses.

NOTICE—EX-PRISON C.O.'s

Have you, as a result of your imprisonment, suffered handicap or exclusion in attempting to enter a profession or trade? If so, will you please inform us of the details. CCCO wishes as complete a record as possible of difficulties faced by ex-prison C.O.'s, particularly in regards to earning a living.

their country. I fought overseas in both World Wars. I hate war and all it implies."

"So long as too high a proportion do not desire such non-combatant service I believe individual preferences should be honored, but in the last analysis society must take precedence over the individual. I have been recalled to active duty."

"Religion itself will go to war if it becomes necessary for survival. I am a pacifist too but not a fanatic nor a coward."

"Being a lawyer as well as a student of military law, I feel that conscientious objectors receive more than due process under the law . . . I feel there are certain principles that cannot be compromised and which men must fight and maybe die for, if need be."

"I am not for any kind of non-defense. This is not Utopia."

Then There Were Others

Among the miscellaneous letters were requests to be removed from the mailing list, and a few from persons promoting causes of their own. One apparently sincere person wrote that you only had to tell the army you believed in God and release would follow.

We got a request to distribute ballots for the American Peace Crusade and some other "leftist" literature.

We also received an interesting letter from a man with his own complaints one of which was that, "The precious bureaucratic prostitutes have continued to read my mail . . ."

Briefly Noted

The June issue of NEWS NOTES erroneously stated that the Doty boys were carrying on the first prison resistance, i.e. resistance resulting in punitive reprisal, since World War II. Harold Flakser refused to work at Danbury for a period in 1949.

* * *

Raleigh Pickard, the first doctor to face prosecution for non-registration, has been registered by selective service officials and classified IV-E by his local board. The case was dismissed, and Pickard will do medical missionary work in India.

* * *

The Los Angeles Federal Probation Office points out that it costs \$54.00 per year for a man on probation and \$1,182.00 to keep a man in prison at the present time. (from C.O. NEWS BULLETIN issued jointly by Pacific Southwest Office, AFSC and L.A. Area Committee for C.O.'s)

* * *

The Federal Correctional Institution at Sandstone, Minnesota, was closed last fall. It was the home of many C.O.'s during World War II and received a few C.O.'s under the 1948 Act. It has now been turned over to the State of Minnesota and is being used for a mental hospital.

* * *

C.O. inmates at Mill Point, W. Va., would like to have some good pacifist books added to the camp library. The educational director also indicated that gifts of modern novels, as well as older, really good books, would be welcome. If any NEWS NOTES readers wish to contribute new books, used books in top condition, or ear-marked funds CCCO will be glad to get up a good literature collection to be added to the Mill Point library for the use of all inmates.

* * *

Australia, though you haven't heard much about it, faces a difficult problem over the failure of youths to register for conscription. Under the compulsory national service scheme, 18-year-olds were required to register, and if they did not, were subject to a fine of 50 pounds. Totals for the entire country are not available, but in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland, out of 36,500 eligible for registration, almost 7,000 failed to comply with the law. This wholesale refusal has posed a tough issue for the government, especially in view of the fact that historically conscription has always been unpopular. (Reported by Worldover Press)

* * *

There is no subscription charge for NEWS NOTES. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive it regularly send your request to CCCO.

Pacifist Granted Citizenship

Jean Christiaens, formerly of Belgium, was granted citizenship in United States District Court at Philadelphia, June 12. Christiaens is the first conscientious objector in this area, and perhaps the U.S., to be given his citizenship under the pacifist oath provided in the McCarran Act.

Under the McCarran Act new citizens must swear (or affirm) to bear arms when called upon to do so. Conscientious objectors, who object by reason of their religious training and belief, may take the old oath which does not mention bearing arms, and under which pacifists had been admitted by the Supreme Court previous to the McCarran Act.

Christiaens is a Quaker and a member of International Voluntary Service for Peace, an organization with headquarters in Paris. He came to this country in October of 1948 and married an American citizen the following month. His first hearing for citizenship was January 30 of this year.

The immigration service inquired closely into just what kind of service Christiaens would be willing to perform in case of war. He is 29 at the present time so not eligible for the draft. Christiaens stated that he would not serve in the medical corps or any other capacity associated with the military. He was willing to work in a factory at a non-military task under civilian direction but not, for instance, package army rations in a food processing plant. He was willing to donate blood and would work on a farm if it were not connected with the military.

The immigration service did not oppose the application. Judge George A. Welsh administered the special oath to Christiaens following administration of the regular oath to 141 new citizens.

In men whom men pronounce divine
I see so much of sin and blot.
In men whom men denounce as ill
I see so much of goodness still.
I hesitate to draw the line between the two
When God has not.

Framed quotation in superintendent's office, Federal Prison Camp, Mill Point, W. Va., temporary residence (in racially segregated dormitories) of several men who refuse to draw lines between individuals.

More Local Committees Listed

The following Fellowship of Reconciliation local committees will be glad to help C.O.'s in their area:

MICHIGAN

c/o Howard Alexander, 430 S. Scott St., Adrian
NEW YORK

c/o Allan B. Peabody, 23 Clumet Place, Buffalo 7
(For other local and regional committees see NEWS NOTES—April and May, 1951)

THE COURT REPORTER

I Prosecutions

*Sentenced since last issue

- 1-15-51 Aaron Yoder, 5 years (Confirmation of sentence not previously available to CCCO)
- 6-4-51 James Bolton, 1 year and 1 day, (New Haven, Conn.) Judge Carroll Hincks
- 6-11-51 Donald Wright, 3 years, (Los Angeles, Cal.) Judge James Carter
- 6-11-51 James Maloney, 3½ years, (Los Angeles, Cal.) Judge James Carter
- 6-12-51 Kenneth Champney, 5 years, (Dayton, O.)
- 6-22-51 Richard Cameron, 1 year and 1 day, (Phila.) Judge James P. McCranery
- 7-6-51 Donald Nagler, 2 years, (Indianapolis, Ind.) Judge William Steckler
- 7-6-51 Duane Metzger, 2 years, (Indianapolis, Ind.) Judge William Steckler
- 7-9-51 James George, 3 years, (Los Angeles, Cal.) Judge James Carter
- 7-10-51 Stephen P. Shaw, 2 years, (Buffalo, N. Y.) Judge John Knight

Arrested since last issue

- California—Charles Hoeh, John Fugitt, Jack W. Jenewin, Ermindo De Sousa
- New Mexico—Carlton Owen
- New York—Marvin Katz
- Ohio—William Kirk
- Pennsylvania—William Zeo, Arthur Fred Woldorf
- Texas—John Lee Holden
- Washington—Ernie Daniels

II Men Currently Imprisoned

- Ashland, Ky.—Robert Somers, Carl Kime, Aaron Yoder, Donald Nagler, Duane Metzger,
- Danbury, Conn.—Paul & David Seaver, Vail Palmer, James Bolton, Richard Cameron, Stephen Shaw
- Mill Point, W. Va.—James Pierce, Max Pardue, James Dawson, Kenneth Champney, David Wireman
- McNeil Island, Wash.—Donald Fisk, Donald Koch, James MacDonald, Robert Starkweather
- Petersburg, Va.—Larry Atkins
- Springfield, Mo.—Joel, Orin, Paul and Sid Doty, Robert Michener, Robert Beach, Dwight

Room 300
2006 Walnut Street
Philadelphia 3, Pa.

New C. O. Law Delayed

The executive order which will outline the duties of IV-E men under the recently extended Selective Service Act has not yet been issued. Both it and the Selective Service regulations are still in the process of being drawn up and approved by the government agencies involved. Since the new C.O. regulations affect a smaller number of men than the other changes in the new law, C.O. provisions were left until last. It is now apparent that no IV-E's will be drafted for civilian duty until fall.

The Associated Press reported July 28 that Hershey has gone to Europe to see about the possible use of C.O.'s there. The report stated that "C.O.'s are a source of friction at home," so Hershey will see if they can be used elsewhere.

No definite predictions can be made about what the new C.O. provisions will contain, but it is evident that Selective Service is primarily interested in having C.O.'s work with non-profit agencies. Selective Service also thinks that all C.O.'s should be taken out of their home communities.

DOTYS

(Continued from page 1)

Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous."

Platt, Earl Glauert

Tuscon, Ariz.—Robert Richter, Robert Cannon, Gerald Counts, Alfred Dana, Richard Crain, James Farmer, Don Noble, James Maloney, Donald Wright

Institutions not verified—Robert Tyrell, James George

*All sentences listed in THE COURT REPORTER, this issue and future issues, are for either failure to report for or submit to induction unless otherwise noted.

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